

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
10 JULY 2001

Present: Chairman Mayor John P. Prall
 Deputy Mayor Donald E. Clarke
 Councillor Bruce H. Morse
 Councillor Richard Horsburgh
 Councillor Thomas S. Banks
 Councillor Michael E. Trinacty
 Ms. Linda Parker, Chief Administrative Officer
 Ms. Carol L. Boylan, Recording Secretary

Absent: Councillor Gary W. Whittier

In attendance: Ms. Sara Keddy, Register
 Mr. John Theakston, Department of Environment and Labour
 Mr. Les Wade, WadePro Advertising

1. The Chairman called the meeting back to order at 7:30 p.m.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

It was agreed to make the following changes to the Agenda: add the recommendation from the Audit Committee and add the Report on Valley Waste Resource Management Authority's recommendation to include the Town of Hantsport.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded to approve the Agenda as amended.

Motion Carried

3. **Approval of Previous Minutes**

Hearing of no errors or omissions the Chairman approved the minutes of 12 June 2001 as circulated.

4. **Presentation**

(a) Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour – Mr. John Theakston

Mr. Theakston reviewed the policy concerning storm drainage, noting that the purpose of the policy is for housekeeping purposes and to formally put in place past practices. There have been a lot of questions from municipal units which are being addressed in this policy. The policy deals primarily with urban storm drainage management and piped storm drains. Mayor Prall raised the question that since our roadways are already established – do we need approval for draining and Mr. Theakston replied that we do not. The concern about ditches as opposed to piped drains was raised and Mr. Theakston replied that the policy does not deal with ditches. Mayor Prall thanked Mr. Theakston for attending the meeting.

5. **Recommendations from Committee of the Whole**

- (a) Appointment of Emergency Measures Coordinator

**IT WAS MOVED and seconded to appoint Dan Noebert as the
Emergency Measures Coordinator for the Town of Berwick.**

Motion Carried

6. **New Business**

- (a) Public Amenities: Mr. Les Wade – WadePro Advertising

Ms. Parker reviewed Mr. Wade's proposal to Council. The proposal will place three benches in the Town of Berwick. Discussion followed concerning the length of time the ads are on the benches, the length of time the contracts for advertising are for, and if preference is given to Town businesses. The benches are built now and are ready to be put in place. The customers are signed on month-to-month and no one maintains a location for more than one month. Mr. Wade also discussed billboards he offers free to festivals throughout the area. One for Gala Days will be placed at the Kingston, N.S. border.

**IT WAS MOVED and seconded to accept the proposal as
presented with the addition of two bike racks and pending receipt
of insurance liability.**

Motion Carried

7. **Recommendations from Other Committees**

- (a) PAC: Variance and Nonconforming Use Provisions

Councillor Trinacty reviewed his report. The amendments have been prepared to enhance the flexibility available to the Development Officer in relationship to variance and nonconforming status issues as well as to update the relevant MPS and LUB references and provisions in light of changes contained in the MGA.

**IT WAS MOVED and seconded that the Town of Berwick
Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw be amended as
presented.**

Motion Carried

- (b) Audit Committee – Council to Approve Financial Statements

Ms. Parker distributed Financial Statements for the Town of Berwick and Berwick Electric Commission as of March 31, 2001. These are as a result of the recent audit by McKenzie Morse & Brewster. The Audit Committee has approved the statements and recommends that Council move to approve them. Ms. Parker noted that the Town recorded a deficit of \$47,371 for 2000/01. She then reviewed the highlights of

both statements and discussion followed. Some concerns raised were concerning the number of outstanding tax accounts which Ms. Parker noted were minimal. It was also noted that some areas in which expenses were up were snow removal costs, heating costs, lab sampling and tree trimming. The Electric Commission also recorded a deficit of \$26,921.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded to approve the Financial Statements for the Town of Berwick and the Berwick Electric Commission as recommended by the Audit Committee.

Motion Carried

Councillor Clarke noted that Mr. Ryan had put in a lot of overtime and effort to assist with the preparation of these statements and he is to be commended for his efforts.

4. New Business (cont.)

(a) Deed Transfer Tax – 2nd Reading

Mayor Prall noted that an additional \$10,000 in revenue is expected from the increase in deed transfer tax.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded to approve the second reading of the Deed Transfer Tax.

Councillor Banks noted that the new tax “handcuffs” the people of the Town when they are trying to sell their homes, and would like to see it looked at again if the UNSM Proposal to the Provincial Government is not approved.

Motion Carried

(b) 2001/02 Operating and Capital Budgets

Ms. Parker reviewed the budgets with Council. The Fire Commission agreed they could cut \$5,000 from their budget without putting residents at risk. The Town had asked for a cut of \$16,000. All departments have been asked to cut, not just the Fire Department. The Fire Department grudgingly accepted that \$5,000 reduction. Another year they would like us to come to them earlier, not at the last minute, if we need them to cut their budget. Ms. Parker explained an error with regard to new furniture for Council Chambers.

Ms. Parker noted the changes in the budget from previous years, and explained changes in same. We have raised the residential tax rate by 2 cents and the provincial government 2.5 cents. The commercial rate is up 10.5 cents. The Town raised the rate 8 cents, the Provincial Government 2.5 cents. Mayor Prall noted there is still a very favourable spread between residential and commercial tax rates.

Approval of Budgets

IT WAS MOVED and seconded that the 2001-2002 Operation Budget totalling \$2,612,700 be approved.

Motion Carried

IT WAS MOVED and seconded that the 2001-2004 Capital Budget totalling \$\$3,345,234 be approved.

Motion Carried

Approval of Tax Rates

IT WAS MOVED and seconded that the 2001-2002 Tax Rates be set as follows:

Residential	\$1.47 ½
Commercial	\$2.58 ½
Assessment Cost Recovery	\$.02 ½

Motion Carried

Final Tax Billing

IT WAS MOVED and seconded that the final 2001-2002 Tax Billing be issued in August 2001 with a due date of September 30, 2001.

Motion Carried

Councillor Trinacty felt it would be a good idea to start strategizing in the fall so when budget issues have to be dealt with, it wouldn't cause so much tension with staff and Council, and that Council would be better prepared to deal with the issues.

- (b) Valley Waste Resource Management Authority – Addition of Town of Hantsport
Councillor Horsburgh referred to correspondence from Valley Waste Resource Management detailing the motion passed authorizing the Authority to approve the Town of Hantsport's application for membership in the Valley Region Solid Waste Resource Management Authority.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded to approve the Town of Hantsport's application for membership in the Valley Region Solid Waste Resource Management Authority, providing their membership does not increase the cost to be paid by the Town of Berwick.

Motion Carried

8. Correspondence

- (a) E-Mail from Peter Bethune
- (b) Memo from Anna Allen: Equalization Proposal

Discussion followed regarding these two pieces of correspondence.

9. Funeral for Alan Whittier

Ms. Parker asked Council's permission to close the Town Office at 1:30 p.m. and to make a donation on behalf of the Town to a charitable donation. It was agreed to close the office and to make a donation in the amount of \$50.00 to the Berwick Fire Department in memory of Mr. Whittier.

10. Hearing of no further business the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

John P. Prall
Chairman

Carol L. Boylan
Recording Secretary